



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Cherokee National Forest.

Watauga Ranger District

4400 Unicoi Drive

Unicoi, TN 37692

(423) 735-1500

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/cherokee>

News Release



Media Contact: Ford Baker

(423) 735-1500

North Cherokee National Forest Seasonal Road Opening Schedule

UNICOI, TENN, March 10, 2020 – USDA Forest Service officials at the Cherokee National Forest recently announced the annual schedule for opening some roads that are closed seasonally. These roads are located in the northern portion of the Cherokee National Forest (Cherokee Wildlife Management Area) in Cocke, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Sullivan and Johnson counties.

Certain National Forest System Roads (NFSR) in the Cherokee National Forest are systematically closed to motorized vehicle use for public safety, to protect wildlife habitat, decrease wildlife disturbance and reduce road maintenance costs. However, some of these roads are temporarily opened for short periods to provide seasonal public access for various uses including hunting, and other activities.

Roads may be opened later than scheduled due to poor road conditions brought on by extreme weather conditions or fire danger. These weather conditions may include freezing/thawing, extreme drought, fire danger or storm damage. In some cases roads sustain severe damage from vehicle use and are closed to protect the various resources.

For additional information, contact the following Forest Service offices: Unaka Ranger Station, Greeneville, TN – Phone: 423-638-4109; Watauga Ranger Station, Unicoi, TN - Phone: 423-735-1500.

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Seasonal Road Opening Schedule
Unaka and Watauga Ranger Districts
Spring 2020

Roads open March 20, 2020 – Mid December 2020

ROAD	NFSR NUMBER	COUNTY	COMMENTS
Briar Creek (Pinnacle Mtn)	188/4354/4354a	Washington	FS 188 to double gate at upper parking area.
Horse Cove Gap	5352	Washington	
Buffalo Mountain ATV Parking lot		Washington	Open March 15, 2020-January 2, 2021
Little Oak	87G	Sullivan	
Big Creek	87C	Sullivan	
Gouge Tract	602101	Johnson	
Frog Level	50F	Carter	
Mill Creek/Holston Mountain	56/202	Carter	
Bitter End	293	Carter	Open to 2nd gate
White Rock	5314	Carter	
Jenkins Mountain	53201	Carter	
Irishman's Branch	313	Unicoi	
Little Mountain	359	Unicoi	
Unaka Mountain Road	230	Unicoi	
Long Branch/Dark Hollow	4365	Unicoi	
Rich Mountain	190	Unicoi	
Little Paint Creek	31B	Greene	
Old Forge (Jennings Creek)	331	Greene	
Shad Road	422	Greene	
Round Knob	88	Greene	
Upper Rough Branch	93D/93E	Greene	Open to 2nd gate.
Firescald (Kennedy Cabin)	358	Greene	Open to boulders blocking road and 2nd gate. No vehicle in fields.
Wolf Creek	96-1	Cocke	
Meadow Creek Mountain	142 & 404	Cocke	
Weaver Bend Road	209C	Cocke	Delayed opening until road repaired
Rattlesnake	3242	Cocke	

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Roads open March 20, 2020 – May 18, 2020

ROAD	NFSR NUMBER	COUNTY	COMMENTS
Parks Branch	6049	Johnson	1.0 mile to 2nd gate
Cedar Gap	293a	Carter	
Piney Grove	53351	Carter	Open to second gate.

Spring Road Closings

ROAD	NFSR NUMBER	COUNTY	COMMENTS
Cherry Flats	50A	Carter	Closed for Timber Sale
Little Pond Mountain	6034	Carter	Closed for Timber Sale
George Creek's	53301	Carter	Closed for Timber Sale
Rough Branch	422a	Greene	Closed for Timber sale

The following roads are not scheduled to be opened due to resource or storm damage:

- Johnson County: NFSR 124 -Whetstone Branch Road
- Unicoi County: NFSR 4343- Rocky Branch
- Unicoi County: NFSR 410- Martin Creek
- Sullivan County: NFSR 4431 Dogwood Bench

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